

Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 by replacement as follows:

1. (amended) A method of irrigating a crop area of at least 1000 m² by pumping water through feed ducting and a mixing zone to a spray manifold supplying one or more spraying devices by which the water is sprayed onto the crop area and in which a substantially stable dispersion in a liquid of water soluble polymer particles is metered at a predetermined rate of 0.5 to 50 ppm into the water at or before the mixing zone and the polymer particles are substantially dissolved into the water before the water is sprayed from the spraying devices.

Remarks

Upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-13 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to increase the polymer concentration range to 50 ppm. Support for the amendment is found on column 5, lines 9-13 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,000,625. No new matter has been added. If minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted

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